

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00046 061534Z

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1908

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, SF

SUBJECT: MATANZIMA REJECTS IDEA OF BILL OF RIGHTS

REF: (A) DURBAN 087, 18 MARCH 74; (B) DURBAN 300, 21 AUGUST 74

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. CHIEF MINISTER OF TRANSKEI MATANZIMA ANNOUNCED IN DAILY NEWS INTERVIEW FEBRUARY 4 INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI WILL BE MULTI-RACIAL BUT WILL HAVE NO BILL OF RIGHTS NOR ANY SPECIFIC CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR WHITES REMAINING AFTER INDEPENDENCE. QUESTION OF NON-TRANSKEIANS WHO WISH LIVE IN TRANSKEI WOULD BE "TREATY MATTER" AND NOT CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERN, HE DECLARED. TRANSKEI WOULD RECOGNIZE AS CITIZENS PERSONS WHO "IDENTIFIED WITH TRANSKEI"; THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL HAVE FULL RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP, HE EMPHASIZED. HOWEVER, INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT IDENTIFY WITH TRANSKEI "ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00046 061534Z

2. MATANZIMA FURTHER STATED HE ENVISAGES FUTURE TRANSKEI

ACCEPTING AID FROM "ALL SOURCES INCLUDING OVERSEAS CAPITAL", (DURBAN 300), HAVING SMALL DEFENSE FORCE, AND ESTABLISHING TRADE RELATIONS WITH "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES". HE ALSO CONFIRMED TRANSKEI WOULD SEEK UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE (BUT WOULD NOT ACCEPT AN OFFER TO JOIN BRITISH COMMONWEALTH) AND REITERATED DEMAND FOR AMALGAMATION OF ADJACENT WHITE PORT ST JOHNS, WHITE AREAS OF HERSCHEL AND LADY FRERE AS WELL AS CISKEI DISTRICT OF GLEN GREY INTO TRANSKEI.

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3. COMMENT: WITH STATEMENT THAT WHITE RIGHTS IN TRANSKEI "TREATY MATTER" MATANZIMA APPEARS FUDGING EARLIER ASSERTION THAT WHITES WOULD HAVE FULL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS--INCLUDING VOTING AND RIGHT TO SIT IN PARLIAMENT (DURBAN 87)-- AND IMPLYING RIGHTS OF WHITES IN TRANSKEI TO BE DEPENDENT ON TREATMENT OF TRANSKEI CITIZENS IN SOUTH AFRICA. MATANZIMA'S RATHER AMBIGUOUS DEFINITION OF TRANSKEI CITIZEN AS PERSON WHO "IDENTIFIES" WITH TRANSKEI IS APPARENT REJECTION OF SAG'S ETHNIC CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP (E.G., ZULUS ARE CITIZENS OF KWAZULU) AND WILL DO LITTLE TO HELP RESOLVE STATUS OF URBAN AFRICANS. SINCE PROSPECT OF URBAN AFRICANS RETURNING TO HOMELANDS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE ALMOST NON-EXISTANT, HIGHLY LIKELY INCREASING NUMBERS OF AFRICANS WORKING IN CITIES WILL SOON CEASE TO IDENTIFY WITH HOMELANDS. MATANZIMA APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING FORCE SAG TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR URBAN AFRICANS WHO NO LONGER IDENTIFY WITH TRANSKEI AND WHO WILL PROBABLY BE SOURCE OF CONTINUAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS AND SAG.

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